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General Assembly

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Third Committee

Organization of work of the Third Committee

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Controller of the United Nations has requested that the following be brought to the attention of the delegations in the Third Committee.

2. A review of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Third Committee and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions in recent years shows an increasing tendency in such texts to deal with administrative and budgetary matters.

3. As an example related to the current session, in draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.5, the General Assembly, in operative paragraph 5, would request the Secretary-General, within existing or extrabudgetary resources, to convene an expert group and, in operative paragraph 6, would also request the Secretary-General to facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in the meeting of the expert group by providing, from within existing or extrabudgetary resources, for the travel of experts from such countries.

4. Another example is draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.6 where, in operative paragraph 9, the Secretary-General would be requested to undertake, within existing or extrabudgetary resources, technical cooperation activities to combat corruption, in consultation with Member States that may be able to provide assistance.

5. Other examples are to be found in draft resolutions A/C.3/54/L.19, A/C.3/54/L.20, A/C.3/54/L.24, A/C.3/54/L.26 and A/C.3/54/L.27 which, in various paragraphs, touch upon budgetary and/or administrative issues and in draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.28, in which the Third Committee would recommend that the General Assembly decide to increase the financial sources, including those coming from the United Nations regular budget, designed specifically to contribute to the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

6. The attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section VI of resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the General Assembly:

(a) Reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

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(b) Reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(c) Expressed its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters;

(d) Invited the Secretary-General to provide all intergovernmental bodies with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters.

7. Should it be the wish of the Committee, the Controller and the staff in his office stand ready to provide the Committee with all relevant information regarding these procedures.